

A&M's first cloned deer is progressing well

Doe-eyed duplicate

By Jason Hanselka
THE BATTALION



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Supervising technician for the Wildlife & Exotic Animal Center Gavin Eastep scolds white-tailed buck clone Dewey for unwanted behavior. Eastep makes a point to scold Dewey for rubbing antlers on any of the volunteers and students who study him. Dewey is the first deer to be cloned and is expected to be larger than any other deer the Wildlife & Exotic Animal Center has raised. Born on May 23, 2003, Dewey is studied for his body and antler growth. No experiments are currently being conducted on Dewey.

The white-tailed deer dubbed Dewey, Texas A&M's most recent clone, is doing well since he was cloned last month, said researchers in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Researchers at the college announced in December that they had successfully cloned Dewey, named after Dr. Duane Kraemer, one of the lead researchers on the project.

The announcement was made seven months after the fawn was born to a surrogate mother. During that time, researchers performed DNA tests to prove the fawn was an exact genetic replica of its donor.

Along with Kraemer, Dr. Mark Westhusin of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Dr. Charles Long of Viagen Inc., worked on the project.

"He was born naturally," Kraemer said. "He seems to be growing quite nicely."

A&M is the first academic institution in the world to clone five different species. Previous cloning projects produced calves, pigs, a goat and a cat.

"The basic procedure is the same to clone all the animals," Kraemer said.

Cloning involves a process called nuclear transfers which isolate genetic samples from the nucleus of a donor cell and transfers the genetic material to the nucleus of an egg cell.

The college chose to clone a deer, Kraemer said, to study certain diseases that plague the animal to understand them and develop a form of prevention.

Researchers also wanted to study antler development to see how similarly a cloned deer's antlers grow in comparison to its donor.

"Dewey will stay at A&M for a while so we can study his antler development," Kraemer said. "Some people might want to use this research to produce a superior quality buck."

Dr. Alice Blue-McLendon, a veterinarian at the College of Veterinary Medicine who is in charge of caring for Dewey, said that the deer is exhibiting normal growth patterns.

"He's excessively tame," Blue-McLendon said. "His mother rejected him so we've had to raise him."

Jose Escobedo, a graduate student in science and technology journalism, said that cloning is beneficial as long as it solves problems affecting everyone.

"It's great that cloning is possible as long as we are not doing it to play around and spend money," he said. "If a deer disease affects people then we should first look at the disease and see how bad it is."

Kraemer said that there are no current cloning projects to produce any new animals.

"What we're doing now is studying the process and learning ways to perfect it," Kraemer said.

Overall public approval, Kraemer said, has been favorable.

"There are always people who will object to what we're doing," he said.

Blue-McLendon said no experiments are currently being conducted on Dewey.

"We're just watching his growth," she said. "Other than that, he lives just like a normal deer."

Break-in spree causes alarm for College Station

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

A spree of car break-ins across College Station last weekend has the College Station Police Department (CSPD) urging residents to lock and protect their cars.

Mark Langwell, public information officer for CSPD, said with the new semester beginning, there are more students with cars.

"When they were home for Christmas some were not used to locking their stuff up," he said.

CSPD Sgt. Gary Vick said more than 10 break-ins occurred in different parts of the city.

Areas where the break-ins occurred ranged from the Castlegate Subdivision to the Woodstone Shopping Center and Balcones fourplexes.

"That tells you that there is more than one person or group doing it," Langwell said.

Langwell said the cars were parked at houses and

apartments.

Vick said there was no specific pattern for the break-ins.

"From what I have seen, entry was just by breaking the window," Vick said.

Sgt. Allan Baron of the University Police Department (UPD) said the A&M campus has not seen a problem with break-ins, but that does not mean cars on campus are not at risk.

Baron said 89 cars were broken into on campus last year, which is roughly seven a month.

"That number is relatively low compared to the number in College Station," he said.

Baron said UPD patrols several parking lots on campus with a number of officers on foot or on bicycle.

Cameras installed by Transportation Services last year aid UPD in monitoring particular lots, he said.

"By building a surveillance, it says 'watch out at TAMU, there are cops everywhere,'" he said.

Kerry Stout, a recent A&M graduate, said he caught

a person breaking into his car after a night out last semester.

"Me and girlfriend were coming back from Northgate and we were parked at the Catholic church parking lot in the first spot," he said. "The driver's side door was wide open and we heard an alarm going off, and I was like 'that sounds like mine,' I then saw the guy hanging out of my door."

Stout said he chased him all the way to McDonald's on University where he was caught by the police.

Stout said nothing was taken.

"He chose the wrong truck to break into," he said.

Both CSPD and UPD police departments warn students and residents not to leave valuable items, such as purses, cell phones and CDs in visible view.

If car stereos have a detachable cover, CSPD and UPD advise that it be taken off.

Baron said just because the number of break-ins are low on campus, that does not mean students should not take action when at school or at home.

"Things can change overnight," he said.

Precious Cargo...

CSPD and UPD urge students and residents to protect their cars by following these tips:

- Do not leave valuable items in the car.
- Take detachable face-plates off of radios.
- Park in well-lit areas.

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: UPD & CSPD

Blinn journalism classes canceled

By Eric Ambroso
THE BATTALION

Two months after Texas A&M announced its decision to cancel the journalism program, Blinn College in Bryan temporarily canceled all journalism classes for the 2003-04 school year.

Nancy Wright, chair of the humanities division at Blinn, said the program was canceled shortly after the announcement at A&M because the program was largely based upon co-enrolled students, and the enrollment numbers had been declining.

Wright said she wants to bring journalism classes back to Blinn, but said there have been problems finding qualified professors.

"I give it a great deal of importance because I think there are a lot of students out there that want to go into some kind of journalism," she said. "But we're doing everything we can to get it back in the fall."

Journalism professors must have a master's degree and adequate experience in the field, Wright said.

There is currently only one journalism professor at Blinn, but Wright said if she can find additional qualified teachers that two or three journalism classes will be offered at Blinn next fall.

"As a teacher, I value journalism and realize how important it is in society," said Nequoia Elsey, communications instructor and faculty adviser for the student newspaper at Blinn. "I would hope that the programs would be revived."

Wright said even though she is uncertain of the future of journalism at A&M, that one of her major goals for the next few years is to rebuild the journalism program at Blinn.

"Even though I'm not a journalism major, I think it's important to offer some kind of journalism classes at any college," said Luke Mintzas, a sophomore at Blinn. "The media plays such a major role in every aspect of our society that understanding journalism could help students in any field."

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Aggie Code gets a boost from staff

By Rhiannon Meyers
THE BATTALION

Sports management professor Dr. George Cunningham said he begins each semester with a lecture on plagiarism.

This is because in each of the two semesters he has taught at A&M, he said he has caught someone cheating.

"The thing that surprises me is that (students) don't know what cheating is," Cunningham said.

Nicole Bradford, director of the newly-formed Aggie Honor System Office, said this sort of misunderstanding is something the office hopes to change.

"We want to make students aware of academic integrity," she said. "We're not setting up another police force — we're here to edu-



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cate."

The office, a recommendation from the Academic Integrity Task Force, was formed last fall in response to high levels of cheating on campus. The force determined the levels of cheating through surveys and student reports.

"The cheating levels were as high here as the national levels," said Martha Louder, accounting professor and chair of the Academic Integrity Task Force. "We always thought we were better, but we have a lot of people not honoring the Aggie Code of Honor."

The Aggie Honor System Office, located in the Academic Building, will be the first

ever centralized location on A&M's campus to deal with academic dishonesty and infractions of the Aggie Code.

The office will be responsible for keeping a record of cheating incidents and educating students on the definition and consequences of academic dishonesty.

The Aggie Code of Honor states Aggies will not "lie, cheat or steal nor tolerate those who do."

"We want students to know the code and know their rights," Bradford said.

The office is also responsible for organizing an honor council, effective Fall 2004. The council will consist of two undergraduates, one graduate and two faculty members from each college who will review cases of

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Betty Unterberger, the first woman to teach at A&M, speaks Monday night at George Bush Presidential Library.

A&M's first woman prof speaks out

By Carrie Pierce
THE BATTALION

Minorities were regarded very differently at Texas A&M in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Dr. Betty Miller Unterberger and Fred McClure said Monday at the George Bush Presidential Library Conference Center as part of "Campus with a Dream" week.

Campus with a Dream has been a weeklong event sponsored by students, faculty and staff at A&M in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Unterberger, a history professor at A&M and regents professor, shared anecdotes of her experiences and struggles at A&M when she first came

to the campus from the University of California at Irvine.

"I felt very much alone at Texas A&M, but it wasn't strange to me," she said.

Unterberger said that at that time there were only three women professors in Southern California.

"I had been told that I had no reason to be taking the bread out of the mouths of deserving male grad students," Unterberger said. "I learned that these people who treated me and all women at that time as they did, that if they knew better, they would do better."

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